



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

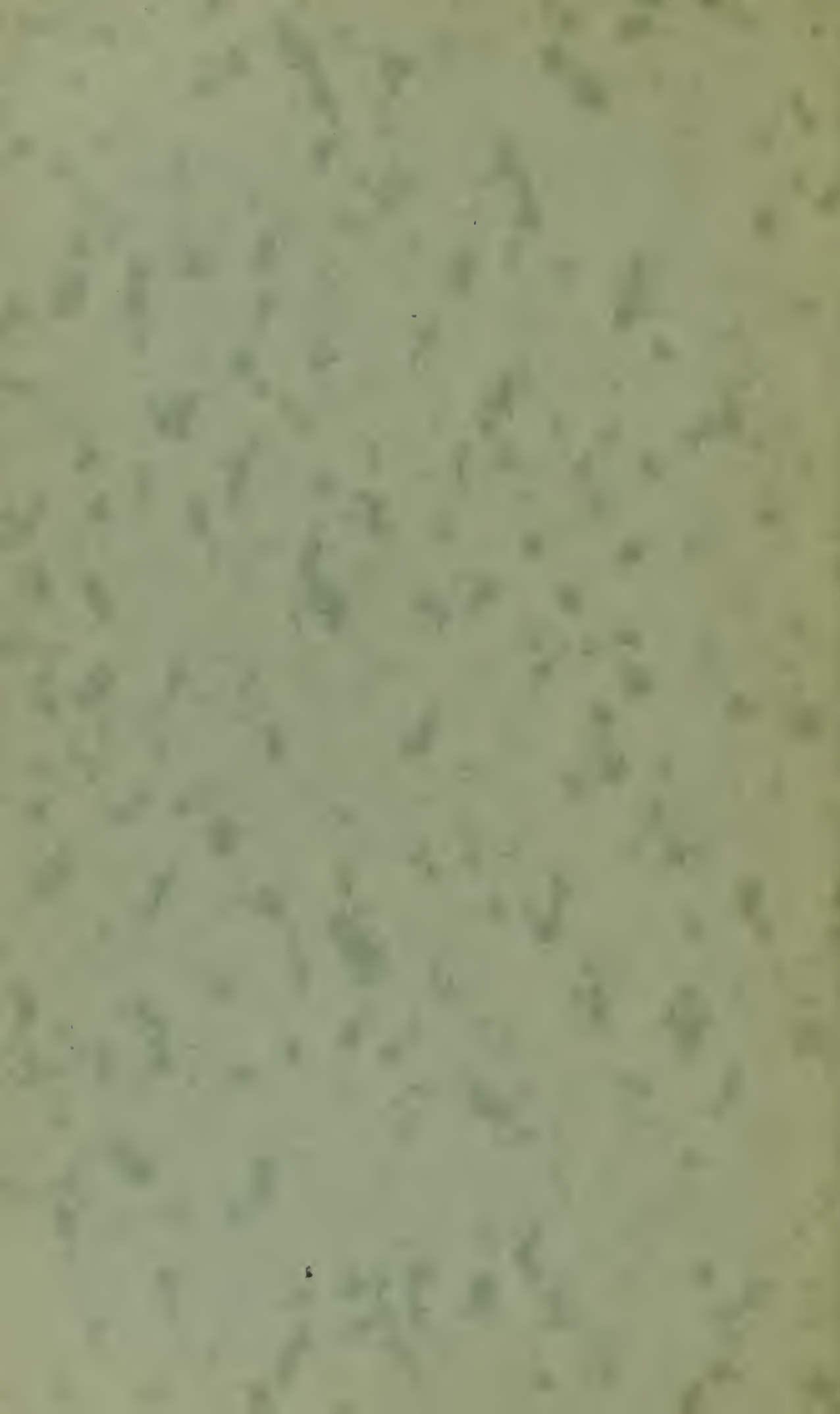
The Sanitary Inspector

FOR

Beaconsfield Urban District

for the year 1936.

BEACONSFIELD :
THE EXCELSIOR PRINTING WORKS, 24, AYLESBURY END.





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WOODMUIR,
CLIFTON ROAD,
AMERSHAM.

June, 1937.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour and pleasure of submitting to you my Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Beaconsfield for the year 1936.

I should like to express again my appreciation and gratitude for the assistance so willingly granted to me by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. John H. Crosby, and for the continued consideration and help received from yourselves.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT C. GUBBINS.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE REPORT.

Staff.

A. General and Vital Statistics.

Area.
Population.
Rateable Value.
Births and Deaths.

B. General Health Services.

Ambulance.
Nursing.
Clinic and Hospitals.

C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.
Drainage and Sewerage.
Closet Accommodation.
Sanitary Inspector—Sanitary Inspector's Report.

D. Housing.

E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.
Meat and other Foods—Bakehouses, etc.

F. Prevalence of, and control over Infectious Diseases, with Statistics.

G. Cancer—Statistics.

Staff.

Medical Officer of Health.

Robert C. Gubbins, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.

John H. Crosby, F.I.S.E., F.I.A.S., M.R.S.I.

A.1. General Statistics.

Area (acres) of District	5,293
Population (Census of 1931)	...	...	...	...	4,843
Registrar-General's estimate (mid 1936)	...	...	...	...	5,305
Rateable value of Area	...	...	...	...	£71,642
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	£281
No. of Houses occupied, according to rate-books	...	...	...	...	1,600

2. Vital Statistics.**Births.**

(a) Live births.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate ...	27	23	50
Illegitimate ...	0	1	1
		1936.	1935.
Birth rate (per 1,000 resident population) ...	...	9.6	13.3
England and Wales ...	...	14.8	14.7
Total Urban (Bucks County)...	...	15.6	15.4
(b) Still Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate ...	1	1	2
Illegitimate ...	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 total Births, 40			

Deaths.

	1936.	1935.
Total Deaths ...	50	40
Death Rate (per 1,000 population) ...	9.4	7.4
England and Wales ...	12.1	11.7
Total Urban (Bucks County)...	10.4	9.9
(a) Deaths from Puerperal causes (<i>i.e.</i> No. of women in, or in consequence of, childbirth).		
	Rate per 1,000 Deaths.	total births.
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0	0
Other Puerperal causes ...	0	0

(b) Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

		Males.		Females.		Total.
1. Legitimate	...	4	...	1	...	5
2. Illegitimate	...	0	...	0	...	0

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... 100

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... 0

Infantile Mortality.

	1936.	1935.
All infants per 1,000 live births	98.0 ...	28.0
England and Wales ...	59.0 ...	57.0
Total Urban (Bucks County) ...	42.5 ...	33.4

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	8	...	0
„ „ Measles „ „	...	0	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ..	0	...	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	0	...	0

(c) Causes of Death.

	Males.	Females.
Influenza	1 ..	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0 ...	1
Cancer	3 ...	5
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1 ...	1
Heart Disease	6 ...	4
Other Circulatory Diseases	0 ...	4
Bronchitis	0 ..	1
Pneumonia	0 ...	1
Septic Ulcer	1 ...	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	0 ...	0
Other Liver Diseases	0 ...	1
Other Digestive Diseases	2 ...	0
Acute and Chronic Nephritis...	2 ...	1
Congenital Causes (Debility, Premature Birth, etc.) ...	4 ...	1
Senility	0 ...	1
Violence	2 ...	0
Other defined diseases...	2 ...	3
Grand Total ... 50	<u>24</u>	<u>26</u>

This year's statistics reveal a huge jump in the Infantile Mortality Rate, which is actually only a statistical anomaly due to the comparatively small figures concerned in the local data ; and it has not, of course, the same significance that a similar rate would have if it applied to the whole country.

There is, nevertheless, a distinct decline in the birth rate, and a raising of the death rate.

B. General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

(a) Laboratory facilities

Arrangements have been made with the Clinical Research Association for the examination of swabs and other material.

(b) Ambulance facilities.

Sufficient accommodation for general cases continues to be provided by the ambulance under the control of the local Committee of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

There have been several changes in the occupancy of the post of District Nurse during the year ; but without, one may add, any diminution in the efficiency of their work or in the continuity of treatment.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

An Infant Welfare Clinic, under the control of a local Committee, is held twice monthly at the Old Rectory, with the attendance, on the first Friday in each month, of myself as Assistant Medical Officer to the County Council, who provide a grant to the Centre.

(e) Hospitals.

It has been a fortunate year in that it has been necessary to send only 3 cases of Infectious Disease to the Booker Isolation Hospital.

I am gratified to be able to state that the Governing Board of this Hospital has now invited the Medical Officers of the constituent Local Authorities to attend the Board meetings.

A scheme for the building of a new and larger hospital, with accommodation for 50 beds and for the reception of a wider range of Infectious Diseases, is now in hand.

C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(In which section is incorporated particulars from the Sanitary Inspector's Report).

(a) Water Supply.

There has been no change in this, which has continued to be satisfactory.

No chemical or bacteriological examinations have been made during the year by this Council.

(b) Drainage and Sewerage.

This is still carried out by the Dual System. Continuing the policy of the Council, new premises not already connected to the sewer are connected as soon as the sewers are available.

(c) Rivers and Streams.

There are none in the District.

(d) Closet Accommodation.

There are still two or three outlying farms and cottages in the area taken over from the Wycombe Rural District Council, using the conservancy method ; otherwise the closet system is in general use.

No. of conversions from conservancy systems to							
W.C's	None

No. of closets still on the conservancy systems, remaining...	9
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(e) Shops.

No action has been taken under the Shops' Act, 1934.

(f) Smoke Abatement.

No action necessary.

(g) Swimming Bath and Pools.

There is one privately owned swimming pool in the district known as "The Bell House" on the London—Oxford Road. This pool has a complete sterilization and æration plant and is kept in a good state of cleanliness.

(h) Schools.

The sanitary condition and the water supply of the elementary schools in the area continues to be satisfactory.

(i) Sanitary Inspection of the area.

This is most efficiently carried out by Mr. J. H. Crosby, the Council's Sanitary Inspector, whose report I have much pleasure in submitting.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Nuisances.

During the year 15 nuisances have been investigated ; these are chiefly defective drains, cesspools and deposits of refuse. Considerable assistance is given in this matter by the workmen engaged in refuse collection and cesspool emptying. Each squad gives a daily report into the office in which any matter requiring attention is specially mentioned. It is then investigated, reported, and the necessary action taken.

Refuse Collection.

A weekly collection is maintained with a Dennis 10 cubic yard covered tipping lorry, with driver and three loaders, with assistance, when required, from a 30 cwt. Morris tipping lorry. Owing to a private contractor making a weekly collection of waste paper, the system of collecting Trade Refuse from the shops in the district has decreased. The amount charged is a nominal one ; Agreements to date amount to £49 per annum.

The refuse accommodation is now as follows :

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
Ashbins	1,749	1,835	1,852	1,880
Other movable receptacles	0	0	0	0
Pits	0	0	0	0

Refuse Disposal.

Collected refuse is disposed of by dumping under the method known as "controlled tipping" and during the year a further $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of low-lying land on the London-Oxford Road has been filled, levelled and soiled.

The cost of collection and disposal worked out as follows :—

	1934.	1935.	1936.
Total nett cost of service	£931	£1,036*	£946
No. of bins	1,835	1,852	1,880
Cost per bin per annum ...	10/1	11/9	10/-
The number of loads taken to tip	1,096	1,013	850
The average weight ...	35 cwt.	40 cwt.	40 cwt.
Average cost per load of 40 cwt.	16/11	19/2	19/10
Cost per ton for collection and disposal	9/8	9/7	9/11

* This sum includes a proportional amount for the purchase of the new Dennis Lorry.

Sewerage.

Disposal Works.—North. Holtspur Bottom. (Area, 33.95 acres.)

These works consist of screening chamber, detritus chamber, settling and humus tank in duplicate, with two rotary sprinklers ; a clear non-smelling effluent is discharged on to land which absorbs it as quickly as it is received. The D.W.F. to these works is still increasing owing to not only new buildings, but because of the large number of houses disconnected from cesspools and put on to the public sewers. The D.W.F. is now 225,000 gallons per day and while the works are giving satisfaction, in the near future it will be necessary to provide an additional sprinkler and construct new humus tanks.

Whilst the amount of sludge produced is still increasing, it is still possible to dispose of it for a nominal charge to the local farmers. There is a good demand for dried sludge which is sold at 6/- per load delivered and free if collected at the works, and powdered sludge at 3/6 per bag.

South. Hedgerley Lane. (Area 26.25 acres.)

The sewerage received here is treated by the Broad Irrigation system, with addition of earth detritus tanks and shallow lagoons. The effluent is clear, free of odour, with a low percentage of suspended matter and is easily disposed of by saturation into the land. These works are still in a very satisfactory condition.

Cesspools.

The emptying of cesspools is carried out by the Council's Dennis 500 gallon vacuum machine. The number of cesspools emptied during the year was 953.

	1934.	1935.	1936.
Cesspools emptied in district	854	812	843
Ditto out of district	244	181	110
Total ...	<u>1,098</u>	<u>993</u>	<u>953</u>
	1934.	1935.	1936.
No. of Loads in the district	2,431	2,236	2,733
Ditto out of district	771	561	274
Total ...	<u>3,202</u>	<u>2,797</u>	<u>2,011</u>

The outside cesspools dealt with are situate in the Amersham Rural Parishes, and owners are charged at a rate of 10/- per hour.

	1934.	1935.	1936.
Total cost of this service	£736	£629	£601
Amount received for work outside the District ...	<u>£248</u>	<u>£122</u>	<u>£120</u>

Net estimated cost to the Council	1934. £488	1935. £507	1936. £481
No. of Cesspools emptied in District	1934. 854	1935. 812	1936. 843
Cost per Cesspool emptying	11/5	12/6	11/5

Every endeavour is made to empty cesspools in the district within 24 hours of receiving notice.

Since the Amersham Parish Council have contracted to empty cesspools, the work of cesspool emptying outside the district has decreased considerably.

Sewering.

During the year a new sewer has been laid in the recent added area at Holtspur, comprising 1,000 yards 9" pipe. This already has 52 houses connected to it.

There has also been 150 yards of new 9" sewer laid in Pyebush Lane to connect the new houses erected there.

The Council have given instructions for a scheme of sewer extension to be prepared for the sewerage of the Burkes Estate, and the Hall Barn Estate are considering the laying of a new sewer from Burnham Avenue across to Hedgerley Lane.

Building Development.

The following statement shews the building development during the year :—

Plans submitted	90
New houses completed during the year (private enterprise)	51
Houses in course of erection	19
Other building works, including alterations, additions and garages, completed during the year	36
Other buildings in course of erection	8

Council Housing.

Malthouse Square (1919) Scheme comprises 52 cottages of the parlour type with three bedrooms, and are let at an inclusive rent of 16/- per week 52

Ronald Road Scheme comprises 22 cottages of the non-parlour type, and are let at an inclusive rent of 13/6 per week.. 22

Amersham Road Estate comprises an area of $13\frac{3}{4}$ acres, and is laid out for 108 non-parlour type cottages and 16 parlour. These are split up into three sections :—

No. 1, Waller Road, 36 non-parlour and 4 parlour type (completed and occupied) 40

No. 2, Hyde Green, 36 non-parlour and 8 parlour type (completed and occupied) 44

No. 3, Maxwell Road, 36 non-parlour and 4 parlour (completed and occupied)..... 40

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The inclusive rental of the non-parlour type is 16/-, plus 1/- standard charge for electricity, which allows the tenants a supply at the rate of 1d. per unit. Parlour type 19/-, plus 1/- electricity charge.

Repairs. All repairs are now carried out by direct labour, a plumber and a mate being employed for this purpose, with additional assistance when required.

Distemper and paint are supplied to tenants who are willing to apply the material.

Malthouse Square Estate. The Council during the year have installed a hot water supply from the back boiler to the 52 houses on this Estate.

Amersham Road Housing Estate. Hyde Green.

During the year the 44 houses on this estate have been decorated by contract.

Housing Inspection.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—*

- | | | |
|---------|---|-----|
| (1) (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 550 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 609 |
| (2) (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) (above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | 530 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 582 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | Nil |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 20 |

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	16
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :*

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a).—Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 : | |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice : | |
| (a) By owners | 1 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |

- (b).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
 - (a) By owners Nil
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil
- (c).—Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil
- (d).—Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil
- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 4
- (2) Number of families living therein 4
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein..... 27
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 5
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 32
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil

- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report Nil

Housing Inspections. Housing Act, 1935.

A completed survey as required by the above Act was made of all working class houses within the area. The general state was found to be good, and the inspection led to the discovery of a number of small defects, which were remedied following an interview with the owner.

At the end of December an advertisement was inserted in the local press calling the attention of landlords to their responsibilities under the Act ; posters, with a summary of the provisions of the Act, were displayed throughout the district, and certificates of permitted number were forwarded without request to every owner of property coming under the purview of the survey, together with a gummed slip of permitted number for insertion in the rentbook and a pamphlet giving a summary of the provisions of the Act.

D. Housing.

This information is given in the appropriate section of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

I should here like to add a conclusion to which I have arrived from my experience as Assistant School Medical Officer of the County Council, and as Medical Officer of the Local Welfare Centre.

From investigations of many cases of subnutrition amongst the child population, I am of the opinion that the rents charged on the Council's Housing Estates form so large a proportion of the wages received that the nutrition of the children tends to suffer thereby.

E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

- (a) Milk Supply.

This continues to be satisfactory. Supervision of the milk producers, etc., is undertaken by the appropriate department of the County Council, as well as by myself and the Sanitary Inspector.

No action has been taken under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

The general standard of the three slaughterhouses is satisfactory. Killing is carried out on agreed days.

Bakehouses and shops are as in previous Sanitary Inspector's Reports. I have personally inspected all the bakehouses, tearooms and restaurants in the area ; and, if not ideal, these premises are quite satisfactory and apart from reminders *re* whitewashing of walls, no action was called for.

(c) Adulterations.

No action has been taken under the appropriate Acts and Regulations in regard to the adulteration of foods.

F. Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.

The number of cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases continues to decline.

				1936.	1935.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	4	5
Diphtheria	..	...	...	2	8

The 2 cases of diphtheria and 1 case of Scarlet Fever were sent to the Booker Isolation Hospital, and the other three cases of Scarlet Fever were nursed and isolated at their homes.

Immunisation treatment against diphtheria continues to be carried out at the Infant Welfare Centre, by myself.

The throat swabbing undertaken by the local General Practitioners continues to be a valuable check on the spread of Infectious Disease, and I should again like to express my appreciation of their help.

There was no marked outbreak of any of the non-notifiable Infectious Diseases during the year, only sporadic cases occurring.

F. Notifiable Diseases.

Disease.	Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	4	1	0
Diphtheria	2	2	0
Influenzal Pneumonia ...	1	0	0

Age Groups.

Disease.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15
Scarlet Fever	... -	... -	... -	... -	... 1	... 2
Diphtheria	... 1	... -	... -	... -	... 1	... -
Influenzal Pneumonia	... -	... -	... -	... -	... -	... -

Disease.	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	over 65 years.					
Scarlet Fever	...	—	...	I	...	—	...	—	...	—
Diphtheria	...	—	...	—	..	—	...	—	...	—
Influenzal Pneumonia	..	—	...	—	...	—	...	I	...	—

Tuberculosis.

Three new cases have been notified during 1936.

There were no deaths from this disease throughout the year.

New Cases and Mortality during 1936.

[illegible]

G. Cancer.

There have been 8 deaths from Cancer during the year.

Age Group.	M.	F.
0—45 years ...	— ...	1 (age 15—"Sarcoma")
45—55 „ ...	— ...	—
55—65 „ ...	— ...	1
65—75 „ ...	1 ...	3
75—85 „ ...	1 ...	—
over 85 „ ...	— ...	1
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 6

